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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

23373 7590 08/04/2008

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
SUITE 800  
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

MISLEH, JUSTIN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 08/04/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/699,795	11/04/2003	Nereo Pallaro	Q78233	3993

TITLE OF INVENTION: MULTIFUNCTIONAL INTEGRATED VISUAL SYSTEM WITH CMOS OR CCD TECHNOLOGY MATRIX

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	11/04/2008

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

## HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

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If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

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B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

# **PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to:** Mail **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**  
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**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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23373 7590 08/04/2008  
**SUGHRUE MION, PLLC**  
**2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.**  
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**WASHINGTON, DC 20037**

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/699,795	11/04/2003	Nereo Pallaro	Q78233	3993

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	11/04/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
MISLEH, JUSTIN P	2622	348-294000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.  
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee  
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)  
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.  
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_ Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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10/699,795	11/04/2003	Nereo Pallaro	Q78233	3993
23373	7590	08/04/2008	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			MISLEH, JUSTIN P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2622	

DATE MAILED: 08/04/2008

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 734 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 734 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

10/699,795

**Applicant(s)**

PALLARO ET AL.

**Examiner**

JUSTIN P. MISLEH

**Art Unit**

2622

**- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed April 10, 2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 - 7, 9, 10, 12 - 15, 17 - 23, 25, and 26 (now respectively renumbered 1 - 5, 7, 6, 8, 9, 13 - 15, 20, 16, 17, 21, 22, 10, 11, 18, 19, and 12).

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Hannon on 28 July 2008.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

### CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 8, 11, 16, and 24.

Please replace remaining Claims 1 – 7, 9, 10, 12 – 15, 17 – 23, 25, and 26 with the following:

“1. A visual system, comprising:  
a CCD or CMOS matrix having a sensitive area, and  
a plurality of optical devices with different directions, fields of view or modes of optical separation,  
wherein said sensitive area of the matrix is divided into a plurality of separated sub-areas designed for different specific functions, a first part of said plurality of separated sub-areas being dedicated to scene monitoring and a second part part of said plurality of separated sub-areas being dedicated to detection of environmental parameters, said division being achieved by said plurality of optical devices,

wherein a fog function is performed in one of the dedicated sub-areas in the second part with an active technique for local fog detection, and in one of the dedicated sub-areas in the first part with passive technique for fog bank detection.

2. The visual system according to claim 1, wherein the system is installed in a motor vehicle on a front portion of an inner rear-view mirror of the motor vehicle, and wherein additional sub-areas in the second part perform rain detection, windscreen misting detection, and dusk detection, respectively.

3. The visual system according to claim 1, wherein the matrix is a linear or logarithmic, monochromatic or color VGA CMOS matrix.

4. The visual system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the sub-areas in the first part is designed for front monitoring.

5. The visual system according to claim 1, wherein one of the sub-areas in the second part is for rain and misting detection.

6. The visual system according to claim 1, wherein one of the sub-areas in the first part is for meeting detection.

7. The visual system according to claim 5, wherein the sub-area dedicated to rain and misting detection includes an emitter.

9. The visual system according to claim 1, wherein one of the sub-areas in the second part is for a dusk function.

10. The visual system according to claim 4, wherein the at least one sub-area dedicated to front monitoring also performs a tunnel function.

12. A visual system, comprising:

a CCD or CMOS color or monochromatic matrix having a sensitive area, and  
a plurality of optical devices with different directions, fields of view or modes of optical separation,

wherein said sensitive area of the matrix is divided into a plurality of separated sub-areas designed for different specific functions, a first part of said plurality of separated sub-areas being dedicated to scene monitoring and a second part of said plurality of separated sub-areas being dedicated to detection of environmental parameters, said division being achieved by said plurality of optical devices,

wherein a vehicle meeting function is performed by one of the sub-areas in the first part by using an optical filter laid with a discretization degree at a pixel level.

13. A visual system, comprising:

a CCD or CMOS matrix having a sensitive area, and  
a plurality of optical devices with different directions, fields of view or modes of optical separation,

wherein said sensitive area of the matrix is divided into a plurality of separated sub-areas designed for different specific functions, a first part of said plurality of separated sub-areas being dedicated to scene monitoring and a second part of said plurality of separated sub-areas being dedicated to detection of environmental parameters, said division being achieved by said plurality of optical devices,

wherein the matrix has a protection window made of one of glass and transparent plastic, the protection window acting as support for one or more optical fibers and a prism, the one or more optical fibers carrying to selected sub-areas of the matrix an optical signal.

14. The visual system according to claim 13, wherein said optical fibers have proximal ends fitted into holes made into said protection window.

15. A visual system, comprising:

a CCD or CMOS matrix having a sensitive area,

a plurality of optical devices with different directions, fields of view or modes of optical separation, wherein said sensitive area of the matrix is divided into a plurality of separated sub-areas designed for different specific functions, a first part of said plurality of separated sub-areas being dedicated to scene monitoring and a second part of said plurality of separated sub-areas being dedicated to detection of environmental parameters, said division being achieved by said plurality of optical devices, one of said sub-areas in the first part being dedicated to front monitoring and others of said sub-areas in the second part being dedicated to rain, misting, fog and dusk functions, and

an optical insulation between the first and second parts, the optical insulation partially covering a surface of a matrix protection window, on a side towards the matrix, with a layer of absorbing or reflecting material.

17. The visual system according to claim 13, wherein a sub-area dedicated to a rain function receives the optical signal from an optical system comprising, in series, the prism with an optical insulation, a filter and an objective with an optical axis orthogonal to a windscreen.



18. The visual system according to claim 13, wherein a sub-area dedicated to a windscreen misting function receives the optical signal from an optical system comprising, in series, the prism with an optical insulation, a filter and an objective with an optical axis orthogonal to a windscreen.

19. A visual system, comprising:

a CCD or CMOS matrix having a sensitive area, and

a plurality of optical devices with different directions, fields of view or modes of optical separation,

wherein said sensitive area of the matrix is divided into a plurality of separated sub-areas designed for different specific functions, a first part of said plurality of separated sub-areas being dedicated to scene monitoring and a second part of said plurality of separated sub-areas being dedicated to detection of environmental parameters, said division being achieved by said plurality of optical devices, wherein one of the sub-areas in the second part is dedicated to a dusk function and receives an optical signal through an optical fiber.

20. A visual system, comprising:

a CCD or CMOS matrix having a sensitive area, and

a plurality of optical devices with different directions, fields of view or modes of optical separation,

wherein said sensitive area of the matrix is divided into a plurality of separated sub-areas designed for different specific functions, a first part of said plurality of separated sub-areas being dedicated to scene monitoring and a second part of said plurality of separated sub-areas being dedicated to detection of environmental parameters, said division being achieved by said

plurality of optical devices, wherein one of the sub-areas in the first part is dedicated to tunnel function and receives an optical signal through an objective dedicated also to a front monitoring function.

21. The visual system according to claim 1, wherein the sub-area dedicated to the fog function, based on the active technique, receives an optical signal through an optical system comprising one of a ball and grin lens, an optical fiber, a high-pass or interferential filter, and a collection lens.

22. The visual system according to claim 21, wherein the sub-area dedicated to the fog function, based on the passive technique, receives the optical signal through an objective dedicated also to a front monitoring function.

23. The visual system according to claim 13, wherein two sub-areas dedicated to a vehicle meeting function receive the optical signal through filters together with an objective.

25. The visual system according to claim 13, wherein a sub-area dedicated to a front monitoring function receives the optical signal through an objective with an optical axis shifted with respect to the center of the matrix.

26. The visual system according to claim 1, wherein some sub-areas are reserved for unused pixels to provide separation between used sub-areas.”

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. **Claims 1 – 7, 9, 10, 12 – 15, 17 – 23, 25, and 26** (now respectively renumbered 1 – 5, 7, 6, 8, 9, 13 – 15, 20, 16, 17, 21, 22, 10, 11, 18, 19, and 12) are allowed.
5. The following is an Examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

For **Claims 1 and 12**, the closest prior art discloses a visual system installed on an inner rear-view mirror of a vehicle, wherein the visual system includes an image sensor having sub-areas dedicated to specific functions and the image sensor for use in a vehicle visual system, wherein the image sensor has several sub-areas dedicated to specific functions including front monitoring, and wherein the sub-areas dedicated to front monitoring may also be used for tunnel detection and a dusk function.

However, the closest prior art does not teach or fairly suggest wherein a fog function is performed both with a dedicated sub-area, with an active technique for local fog detection, and with passive technique for fog bank detection in another sub-area corresponding to the one dedicated to front monitoring or contained therein or wherein a vehicle meeting function is performed by one of the sub-areas in the first part by using an optical filter laid with a discretization degree at a pixel level.

For **Claims 13, 15, 19, and 20**, the closest prior art discloses a visual system installed on an inner rear-view mirror of a vehicle, wherein the visual system includes an image sensor having sub-areas dedicated to specific functions and the image sensor for use in a vehicle visual system, wherein the visual system includes a protection housing for supporting a lens system.

However, the closest prior art does not teach or fairly suggest wherein the matrix sensor has a protection window made of glass or transparent plastic, also acting as support for one or more optical fibers and a prism carrying to selected sub-areas of the matrix an optical signal picked up by the prism

6. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Justin P Misleh whose telephone number is 571.272.7313. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on 571.272.7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**/Justin P. Misleh/  
Primary Examiner  
Group Art Unit 2622  
August 4, 2008**